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# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

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DISPATCH NO. MAVA-964

**SECRET**  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief of Station, Heidelberg  
Attn: ☐ ☐  
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna, Austria

DATE: 25 February 1948

SUBJECT: GENERAL: Operational  
SPECIFIC: Training Program for W/T Stay-Behind Agents in Austria

Reference: MOH-A-2856

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 2028  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. Thank you for reference communication. We appreciate the difficulties you have been faced with in arranging a training schedule for German-speaking W/T operators. At the same time we are concerned at the possibility of any delay in the training of W/T operators since we are particularly anxious to organize a number of stay-behind networks in Austria as soon as possible. This is one of the most important missions assigned to the Vienna station by Washington.
2. We call to your attention the following individuals whom we are considering as candidates for the W/T course. All have been cleared by local investigation and vetted in Washington and London:
  - a. ☐ ☐ subject of vetting cable Vien 1113. He is a 27 year old Austrian student of veterinary who has had previous experience in radio work and served as a radio teletype operator in the German Wehrmacht. He was attached for a period during the war to the German headquarters at Salonika (Heeresgruppe Sued-Ost). He is intelligent, patriotic, anti-Communist and tremendously interested in radio work. He has never had any previous experience in intelligence work. His use as a W/T operator has been cleared with Washington. He has a school knowledge of English.
  - b. ☐ ☐ , subject of vetting cable Vien 692. He is a 27 year old Austrian student of electrical engineering who is described as steady, solid and perseverant. He is working for the American I.S. for ideological reasons. ☐ ☐ has already achieved some success for this mission in penetrating the Communist youth movement in Austria. He has had between two and three years experience in radio work while in the German Wehrmacht and is a trained W/T operator. His use has been approved by Washington.

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DO NOT  
NO ☐  
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NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1981  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 1981 REVIEWER:

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Subsequently  
discussed  
suitability  
see notes  
above

- e. [ ] , subject of vetting cable Vien 683. He is a 41 year old Austrian ex-policeman who acquired some experience in radio work while in the police. [ ] has worked for this mission for about nine months in a minor capacity as a body-guard to one of our principal agents and has demonstrated loyalty, discretion and some personal courage. He has no knowledge of English.

Subsequently  
discussed  
suitability  
see notes  
above

- d. [ ] , subject of vetting cable Vien 969. [ ] is a 32 year old Austrian secretary (female). She was formerly employed by the Austrian Foreign Office. She has a rudimentary knowledge of English which she is attempting to improve. Her previous experience with radio work is believed to be limited. Her use has been approved by Washington.

3. In addition to the above four candidates, we are also considering as a W/T agent the owner of a Vienna radio shop. This individual has not yet been vetted, but he is recommended to us by one of our most reliable agents who stated that the proposed agent has had extensive radio experience. We shall prepare a vetting cable on this individual as soon as the necessary biographical material is received.
4. We are most desirous of permitting the individual listed under paragraph 2-a above to take a refresher course in radio technique at your training school. On the basis of our personal knowledge of his past experience, we are prepared to accept his statement that he would qualify as a successful W/T stay-behind operator. With regard to the other individuals listed above, with the possible exception of the individual mentioned in 2-b, we are not in a position to judge their suitability for W/T work. We are therefore reluctant to send them up to Germany to attend the training course without having their recruitment cleared by a representative of [ ] 's section. While the branch chiefs of this mission are able to determine an agent's suitability from the point of view of his enthusiasm or security considerations, we feel that only a man familiar with the peculiar problems affecting radio work can pass judgment on any given individual's fitness as a prospective radio operator. We therefore request that a member of [ ] 's section come to Vienna as soon as he can be spared from his present duties and check the candidates. This preliminary screening should weed out any candidates who lack the necessary technical ability and physical or mental stamina to become W/T operatives.
5. We repeat that the individual listed under paragraph 2-a above is ready to take the refresher course at any time you are prepared to receive him. Please advise us of your reaction to this problem and the other problems brought up in this communication.

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